

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-25 are pending in the application, with 1 and 13 being the independent claims. Claim 1 has been amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his indication of allowability of claims 13-25 and for his suggestion that claims 8-12 contain allowable subject matter.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy extended by Examiner Ricci to Applicant's undersigned representative during the interview conducted on July 28, 2004. Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the agreements reached at the interview, as reflected in the Examiner Interview Summary Record of the same date. It is believed that, in light of the foregoing amendment, all of claims 1-25 are now in condition for allowance.

***Conclusion***

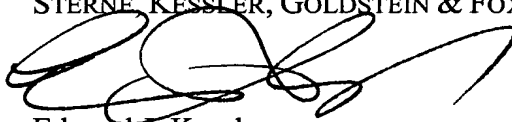
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Edward J. Kessler  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 25,688

Date: 28 July 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600